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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 23, 2003

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Lost MEAP scores won't hurt schools under new Senate bill

LANSING – Legislation introduced in the Michigan Senate Wednesday would protect that students and schools from being penalized if their Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) answer sheets are lost by the Michigan Department of Education or a state contractor.

Senate Bill 787, cosponsored by Sen. Valde Garcia (R-Howell), would protect schools like the Pinckney School District, one of nine schools in Michigan that still have not received their MEAP answer sheets. An estimated 3,400 answer sheets are missing statewide.

Under SB 787, schools could not be unfairly designated as unaccredited or as not maintaining federal adequate yearly progress as required by the No Child Left Behind Act because of missing results.

“After learning about the lost MEAP scores for Pinckney Schools, I knew something needed to be done,” Garcia said. “It is unfair to disqualify any student from receiving a scholarship or deem a school as failing just because a test’s vendor did not perform their job. Our students work very hard to do well on these exams. They deserve the same respect and sense of responsibility in return.”

This bill ensures that affected students are not included when determining state accreditation. It also requires the department to make every effort to ensure that the affected students or schools are not included in calculations of the federal progress reports.

The bill was referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

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